

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: CAIRO 3564

1. AMERICAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS
FOUNDED SHORTLY AFTER JUNE 1967 WAR TO STIMULATE INTEREST
IN AND TO FACILITATE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT
ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES THROUGHOUT US ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.
ORGANIZATION PUBLISHES QUARTERLY JOURNAL ENTITLED "MIDDLE
EAST INFORMATION SERIES," SHORT BACKGROUND PAPERS ON
SPECIFIC MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, AND OCCASIONALLY UNDERWRITES
PUBLICATION OF LONGER WORKS ON MAJOR PROBLEMS; E.G.,
VOLUME ON JERUSALEM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AUGUST. ORGANI-
ZATION ALSO SPONSORS MIDDLE EAST SYMPOSIUMS AND SEMINARS
BOTH IN ISRAEL AND THE US. LAST MONTH IT ARRANGED FOR
VISIT TO US BY PROFESSOR YEHUDA BLUM OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL, AND IT WILL SEND SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS OF
ISRAEL IN JUNE.

2. PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF ORGANIZATION IS:

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COUNCIL -- PROFESSOR DAVID LANDES,

FORMER DIRECTOR OF HARVARD'S MIDDLE EAST CENTER AND LEADER
OF THE ORGANIZATION'S 1968 STUDY GROUP TO MIDDLE EAST;

CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE -- PROFESSOR MICHAEL
CURTIS, HEAD OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, RUTGERS;

NATIONAL CO-CHAIRMAN -- DR. HERBERT COWEN, PROFESSOR
OF PHYSICS AT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. AND

FOUNDER AND FIRST CHAIRMAN -- DR. ALLEN POLLACK,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
AND ALSO MEMBER OF 1968 STUDY GROUP.

3. ALTHOUGH ORGANIZATION ENDEAVORS TO PROTECT IMAGE
OF IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY, IT HAS GENERALLY
ESPOUSED A QUASI-OFFICIAL ISRAEL POSITION ON MIDDLE
EAST ISSUES. SOME ACADEMICIANS SYMPATHETIC TO ARAB
VIEWS ALLEGE THAT ORGANIZATION IS A "ZIONIST FRONT,"
CREATED TO LEND A "VENEER OF ACADEMIC OBJECTIVITY" TO
ZOA PROPAGANDA EFFORTS-

4. YOU MAY CONVEY FOREGOING INFORMALLY TO SIRRI, MAKING
CLEAR THAT US CAN MAKE NO RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT
TO WHETHER EGYPT SHOULD ACCEDE TO VISIT BY GROUP FROM
AMERICAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE IN NE. BROWN

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